

ACTIVITY - SOUNDS OF DISCOVERY

ARTS DISCIPLINE:	Music
FINE ARTS STANDARD:	Standard 6 - Listening
BENCHMARK:	Know a variety of styles representing diverse cultures
GRADES:	K-4

A.R.T.S. TRUNK OBJECTS

- Bountiful harvests rattle
- Buffalo hide rattle
- Drum stick
- Grandfather Singing in the Thunder rattle
- Hand drum
- Mandan love flute
- Mouth harp
- Violin and bow
- *Sounds of Discovery*, CD
- *Lewis & Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery*, video
- "The Vision of Tailfeather Woman" (copy follows)

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- CD player
- TV/VCR
- Access to the Internet

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Thomas Jefferson learned to read music and play the violin as a child; and by age of fourteen, he was capable of writing down his fiddle tunes. Many years later he recalled that, as a young man, he regularly practiced three hours a day. He also collected a large library of music including works by composers such as Vivaldi, Handel and Haydn.

During his lifetime he owned several violins, the finest of which may have been an Amati made in Cremona, Italy in the 17th century. There were harpsichords and forte pianos in his household as well.

Music was an important aspect of life on the trail for the Corps of Discovery men. They took along with them at least one fiddle, several mouth harps and four "sounden horns" (tin blowing trumpets). After the challenges of the day, music and dance became a way to release tension, relax and socialize.

Entries in the journals of Corps members often referred to American Indian music. On



CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS WITH LEWIS AND CLARK

ACTIVITIES - MUSIC

September 26, 1804, Clark described how the day's negotiations with the Sioux ended:

"We smoked untill Dark, at which time all was cleared away and a large fire made in the Center. Several men with Tamborens highly decorated with Deer and Cabra (antelope) Hoofs to make them rattle, assembled and began to Sing and Beat."

Music was integral to the Indian way of life. They used rattles, hand drums and flutes, for not only dancing but for spiritual and healing ceremonies. See attached story "The Vision of Tailfeather Woman" which relates the beginning of the ceremonial powwow drum.

For more information visit www.lewis-clark.org.

PROCEDURE

- Show the instruments from the trunk, and discuss and compare the importance of music to:
 - Thomas Jefferson
 - the Corps of Discovery men
 - the American Indians
- Assist students in identifying the instruments used by each group:
 - Jefferson: violin, harpsichord, voice
 - the Corps members: fiddle, whistles, jews harps, voice
 - the American Indians: drums, rattles, flute, voice
- Play examples of music for each group and encourage students to describe the characteristics of each instrument and style.
- Divide the class into small groups. Each group can select one instrument from the trunk. Their task is to compose a short piece of music that incorporates that instrument and their voices.
- Provide time for composing and rehearsing. Give feedback to students as they work.
- Organize a performance time for students to share their compositions.
- Hold a critique about the performances.

ASSESSMENT

- Level of participation in group discussions
- Ability to work cooperatively in a group.
- Quality of musical composition.
- Quality of performance.
- Level of participation in critique session.



THE VISION OF TAILFEATHER WOMAN

As told by William Bineshi Baker, Sr.,
Ojibwe Drum-maker

It was the first time when the white soldiers massacred the Indians when this Sioux woman gave four sons of hers to fight for her people. But she lost her four sons in this massacre and ran away after she knew her people were losing the war. The soldiers were after her but she ran into a lake. She went in the water and hid under the lily pads. While there, the Great Spirit came and spoke to her and told her, "There is only one thing for you to do."

It took four days to tell her. It was windy and the wind flipped the lily pads so she could breathe and look to see if anyone was around. "No" is the only sound that she made out, but from it she remembered all the Great Spirit told her. On the fourth day at noon she came out and went to her people to see what was left from the war. The Great Spirit told her what to do: "Tell your people to make a drum and tell them what I told you." The Great Spirit taught her also the songs she knew and she told the men folks how to sing the songs. "It will be the only way you are going to stop the soldiers from killing your people."

Her people did what the woman said and when the soldiers who were massacring the Indians heard the sound of the drum, they put down their arms, stood still and stopped the killing. To this day, white people always want to see a powwow. This powwow drum is called in English "Sioux drum" and in Ojibwe "bwaanidewe'igan." It was put here on earth before peace terms were made with the whites. After all this took place the whites made peace terms with the Indians. So the Indians kept on the powwow. It's because the Sioux woman lost her four sons in the war that the Great Spirit came upon her and told her to make the drum to show that the Indians had power too, which they have but keep in secret.

